

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
OCTOBER 9, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Bridle-Russell, Chairman
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman
James Workman
Rick Griffin
Bill Lally
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS:

PUBLIC HEARING

Acceptance of Katie Lane Under 674:40-a (the first of two required public hearings)

Mr. Gearreald noted that only one public hearing is required not two.

Public Comment:

None

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to accept Katie Lane under 674:40-a. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Moore questioned if the public hearing should be rescheduled until next week (October 16) since there was an error with the number required on the posted agenda.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Moore announced that the Congregational Church is hosting a Ham & Bean supper on Saturday, October 14. He was uncertain of the time and suggested that those interested contact the Church office to confirm. He also mentioned that the Historical Society is holding their annual meeting this Saturday night. There is a dinner associated with the meeting as well as a program with a humorous speaker.

Mr. Griffin reminded residents that the Precinct Commission is hosting there monthly meeting at 5:30pm this Wednesday, October 11 at the Beach Fire Station.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. JOHN NICKERSON – CHANNEL 22 – EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND NEW BOARD

John Nickerson has been elected as the Chairman for the Channel 22 - Cable TV Advisory Committee. As of today the Committee had a balance of \$127,666. Mr. Nickerson has come before the Board to request authority to use up to \$8,000 from that account. To function properly the cable station will need to purchase two new cameras for the Selectmen's meeting room, three small monitors, one larger monitor and a laptop computer, as well as software to be used in the control room. In addition, Mr. Nickerson requested that he have authority to spend up to \$500 for emergency purposes only. He also asked to have the stipend for Committee members increased from \$7/hour to \$10/hour. Channel 22 is a valuable tool for communicating the many happenings that impact Hampton residents. The Board noted that without the commitment of the Committee members, Town meetings and special events would not be broadcasted.

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE HAMPTON CHANNEL 22 CABLE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Griffin asked about the status of Candidates night. Mr. Nickerson stated that they are still working out a suitable date.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to increase the stipend for Cable Committee members to \$10 an hour and to authorize the Committee to spend up to \$8,000 on needed equipment for Channel 22. As well as give Mr. Nickerson authorization to spend up to \$500 for emergencies purposes. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Nickerson requested that the Board send a letter to the Winnacunnet High School to get permission for the Cable Committee to setup broadcasting equipment, the night before the Town meeting.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to send a letter to the Winnacunnet High School requesting permission to allow the Cable Committee to prepare to broadcast at the High School the night before the Deliberative Session (February 2, 2007). **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

III. MINUTES – OCTOBER 2, 2006

Page 2 – under the "Board's Response to the Hampton Fire Station Report" – second paragraph – delete the following: *"Mr. Moore asked if the Ashworth parking lot would be large enough for the beach station. Mr. Gillick confirmed that it would be."*

Page 9 – third paragraph – amend paragraph to read: "...NH DOT is seeking regarding the 1A Bridge from the Town is what they are in support of, a minimum repair that would last about eight years or a substantial repair that would last approximately 20 years."

The minutes of October 2, 2006 stand as correct

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gearreald congratulated Angela Silva for 15 years of service as Deputy Tax Assessor, her anniversary date in that office being October 10, 2006. Angie has actually been working for the Town since January of 1989. Angie is one of those "go to" employees that every Town Office needs in order to function successfully.

October 6, 2006 marked the deadline on the most recent extension of Zoppo's contract for work on King's Highway. Discussions continue with Zoppo and the State DES and Faye, Spofford & Thorndike regarding remedial work to a section of pipe.

Mr. Gearreald sent a letter to the Budget Committee Chairman Mary Louise Woolsey asking for a couple of changes in dates for budget reviews, without extending that Committee's Budget review time.

A safety inspector from the New Hampshire Department of Labor showed up on October 5, 2006 regarding doing a safety inspection of Town buildings and reviewing the safety plan. She will return on October 23, 2006 to view our buildings with Building Inspector Schultz. She will then review our safety plan and the Joint Loss Management Committee meeting minutes with Maureen Duffy. Dyana Martin did a great job in compiling those particular documents last year when she served as Secretary of that Committee.

Ellen Goethel, Jamie Steffen, Tracy Emerick and the Interim Town Manager met with Attorney Mike Donahue and Tom Nigrelli last Wednesday to discuss wording of the Conservation Easement for the 22 acres to be donated to the Conservation Commission as part of the Pages Meadow development. The meeting was very productive. As soon as final wording as agreed upon, the Commission will schedule a public hearing under RSA 36-A:5, II on its acceptance, which will be subject to the Selectmen's approval under RSA 36-A:4.

Mr. Gearreald has communicated to counsel for Delvin Arnold the need to come up with a better road name for the new subdivision road in Baron Estates, as discussed by the Board at its last meeting.

Bob Estey, Mike Schwotzer, and Mr. Gearreald are working on getting all items in place so that the tax rate can be set. Documents needed from the Hampton Beach Precinct are the latest holdup. A vote by this Board is needed on how much to allocate for overlay and whether to use any portion of our small fund balance to reduce the tax rate.

The next deadline for resumes for the Town Manager's position is Friday, October 13, 2006.

The very helpful 2007 calendars from the Local Government Center for Towns with March meetings are in and have been posted in the Town Manager's office. Copies on disc are also available this year.

In response to a question last week, with the resignation from the Shade Tree Commission of Marilyn Wallingford, who was the Committee's Chairman, the 2 members remaining are Liz Webb (term expires 2007) and Mark Olsen (term expires 2008).

The Town Manager received a letter from Design Chief David L. Scott of the Department of Transportation in reply to the October 2, 2006 letter regarding the questions to which the Selectmen's input is required regarding the Hampton Harbor Bridge. Mr. Gearreald suggested that Police and Fire input should be sought concerning the traffic control issues that Mr. Scott seeks input on.

Mr. Gearreald discussed the state requirements for political advertising, in response to a question asked at the last meeting.

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lally asked about the status of the required information from the Precinct. Mr. Gearreald received confirmation from Precinct representatives that it is in the process and should be in Concord in the next day or two.

Mr. Moore suggested that in addition to seeking input from the Police and Fire Departments about the 1A Bridge, the schools in the Sunvalley area should be consulted as it may disrupt the bus schedules. Mr. Moore would also like to see an updated financial report on the beach infrastructure project. Mr. Gearreald had asked the Finance Director to hold off on obtaining that information until he was able to get input from the project engineers.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Griffin reported on the response that he had from local businesses regarding donating trees to the beautification of Hampton Beach. There are many people in Town who are interested in volunteering their time to ensure that the beach receives diligent attention in planting and maintaining attractive greenery.

Mr. Griffin mentioned that many of the businesses in the beach area felt that it is the responsibility of the Precinct to purchase and care for the trees. He spoke to Precinct Commissioner John Kane, who told him that the Commission is planning on purchasing the trees for the Hampton Beach Beautification Committee.

Mr. Griffin spoke about parking and noted that the Precinct requires assistance from other resources to achieve adequate parking for businesses in the beach area. He suggested that perhaps Precinct businesses should receive a discount when using municipal parking lots.

Mr. Griffin requested that the Town Manager look into assisting Andrew Moss (926-1240) with some construction work that has been done in front of his house along O Street. Mr. Griffin received a complaint from Linda Desjardins (425 Ocean Boulevard) is having problems with runoff pooling in front of her house and is seeking assistance from the Town.

Mr. Griffin had a call from a resident who is concerned about the money being collected at the Transfer Station. The resident believes that all of the money is not being accounted for. Mr. Moore noted that residents dumping materials off at the transfer station should receive receipts from the attendant.

Mr. Griffin received a call from a local individual who is quite distressed about the condition of the North Beach wall not being repaired. Mr. Gearreald is not familiar with this issue as it is a State project.

Mr. Griffin said that he is aware of many people who are interested in volunteering their services to create and maintain a dog park. It was suggested that perhaps a committee could be formed to take the idea forward.

In response to last week's issue with planting trees for the Beautification Committee, Mr. Gearreald noted that the Parks Coordinator Darren Patch will be involved in the selection of the trees and Public Works will assist with unlocking and lifting the grates.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2007 BUDGET REVIEW – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Sullivan, Captain Sawyer and Captain Crotts addressed the Board. Chief Sullivan stated that the budget is based on needs for the Department and has been increased by 6%. Major changes include new equipment, service contracts for various electronic systems, cruisers and Specials. The goal for the Police Department is to hire 20 new Police Specials since the Department is extremely under staffed in that area. There are no new full time positions being added to the budget.

Mr. Lally asked about the IT system upgrades for workstations. Most years the Department tries to maintain a schedule to repair, upgrade or replace obsolete computers but this program was cut in response to the default budget. Mr. Lally inquired about the detective position. Chief Sullivan said that the position is in the budget.

With the hiring of additional Specials there will be uniform and training costs.

Mr. Moore inquired about the under spending in the Specials account. Chief Sullivan explained that when budgeting for additional officers they focus on the costs involved for each new group in following year. That is they hire Specials, train them and let them become familiar with Hampton. As a result of this tactic the Chief is able to hire good fulltime candidates that are well trained and knowledgeable about Hampton.

Mr. Griffin congratulated the Police Department and Wally's Pub with the success of there special event held this past weekend. Chief Sullivan noted that successful events are well managed and preplanned. Mr. Griffin asked if additional special events would increase expenses to the Police Department. Chief Sullivan explained that there is a public safety concern with large groups of people so for that reason it does cost the Town more money. He also noted that many event planners hire Police Detail.

The proposed 2007 budget for the Police Department will be moved to the final review (October 16, 2006).

Chief Sullivan presented the Animal Control budget. The only adjustments include an increase in gasoline. It was suggested that Pete MacKinnon be consulted on the proposed dog park.

Mosquito Control Commission

Anne Kaiser presented the 2007 budget for the Mosquito Control Commission. It has been based on a proposal provided by the contractor and there is an increase in the cost over last year. Mosquitoes have become a human health concern because of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and the West Nile virus (WNV). The specific types of mosquitoes that can transmit the diseases have been identified in the Rockingham County.

Mrs. Kaiser talked about spraying around condo communities to assist in controlling the mosquitoes. There was some discussion on spraying on private roadways even though it is a public health concern. The potential for allergic reactions caused by the spraying was briefly discussed.

The proposed 2007 budget for the Mosquito Control Commission will be moved to the final review.

2. TAX SETTING FUND ISSUES

Mr. Gearreald explained that there is a form that needs to be filled out in connection with the tax rate setting. The amount of overlay that the Town Assessor has recommended is \$200,000 to cover any abatement of taxes. **Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to allocate \$200,000 for the overlay when setting the tax rate. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

The Budgetary Fund Balance retention is the amount from our undesignated fund balance to be used to reduce the tax rate. The fund balance is down to \$530,000.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to not use any funds from the unreserved fund balance to reduce the tax rate. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

The 2007 Board of Selectmen budget needs to be available to the Budget Committee by October 30, 2006.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Entertainment Permit**
- 2. Sign Permit**

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to approve the Entertainment Permit for Café Fresco and the Sign Permit for Rockingham Craftsmen. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Moore received a phone call regarding an article in the Union Leader, referring to poor water quality. Mr. Moore was assured by the Aquarion Water Company that the water quality in Hampton is good.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman